



REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT FOR THE YEAR 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee
of the Isle of Wight County Council.*

Lady and Gentlemen,

This interim health report is short because of war conditions. The fuller statistics as set out in previous reports are filed for future reference although they are not now published.

There is no outstanding feature in the health returns. The number of deaths was somewhat higher than the average being 226 more than in the previous year; the greater part of this rise was accounted for by the increased prevalence of influenza at the beginning of the year (mostly of mild type) together with pneumonia and other respiratory diseases which caused 140 more deaths than in 1939. Apart from this there were few deaths from epidemic disease. The infant mortality rose from 26.3 to 39.8 per 1000 births, but this is still low compared with the Country as a whole.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FAIRLEY.

County Hall,

Newport, I.W.

August, 1941.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS—1940.

Area.	Rural District.	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Whole County.	England & Wales : Rate per 1,000.
Live Birth-rate per 1000 population..	11'2	13'3	17'0	13'7	10'9	11'5	13'4	14'6
*No. of Live Births (B.R.) ...	179	222	329	240	121	69	1160	
Males ...	90	113	165	128	70	34	600	
Females ...	89	109	164	112	51	35	560	
Legitimate : Males ...	86	107	152	124	68	34	571	
Females ...	84	106	154	104	47	34	529	
Illegitimate : Males ...	4	6	13	4	2	—	29	
Females ...	5	3	10	8	4	1	31	
§No. of Stillbirths (B.R.) ...	11	6	16	6	3	2	44	
Males ...	7	2	8	4	2	1	24	
Females ...	4	4	8	2	1	1	20	
Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ...	57'9	26'3	46'4	24'4	24'2	28'2	36'5	
Legitimate : Males ...	6	2	7	4	2	1	22	
Females ...	4	4	7	1	1	1	18	
Illegitimate : Males ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	
Females ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	
†No. of Live Births (I.M.) ...	180	224	334	245	125	72	1180	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births ...	38'9	44'6	29'9	65'3	16'0	27'8	39'8	55'0
Total Infant Deaths ...	7	10	10	16	2	2	47	
No. of Deaths of Legitimate :—								
Males ...	3	4	4	10	2	—	23	
Females ...	3	6	5	3	—	2	19	
No. of Deaths of Illegitimate :—								
Males ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	
Females ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	
Number of Women dying or in consequence of child birth—								
(a) From Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) From other causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age) ...	1	1	1	1	—	1	5	4'6
Total No. of Deaths ...	268	232	270	351	183	121	1425	
Males ...	131	115	126	163	82	51	668	
Females ...	137	117	144	188	101	70	757	
Crude death-rate per 1000 ...	16'8	13'9	13'9	20'0	16'5	20'2	16'5	14'3
Comparative factor ...	0'76	0'82	0'88	0'73	0'73	0'75	0'79	
Comparative death-rate ...	12'8	11'4	12'2	14'6	12'0	15'2	13'03	
Population—Registrar-General's Estimate ...	15930	16670	19380	17530	11060	6000	86570	

*B.R.—for calculation of Birth Rate.

†I.M.—for calculation of Infant and Maternal Mortalities.

§For calculating the Infant Mortality rate, the number of stillbirths is given in Cowes as 7 and in Newport as 17. In the other districts the figures are the same as above.

TABLE II.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY DURING THE YEAR 1940, RELATING TO CIVILIANS ONLY, AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.

Causes of Death.							All Ages.	0 to 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 14.	15 to 44.	45 to 64.	65 & over.
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1425	47	24	11	97	332	914
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	—	—	—	27	14	3
7 Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	—	1	1	3	1	—
8 Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	—	—	—	—	2	4
9 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	1	2	1	6	12	24
10 Measles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
11 Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12 Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
13 Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M) and uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	—	—	—	2	10	17
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	—	—	—	1	10	24
15 Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	—	—	—	—	11	9
16 Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	108	—	—	1	2	32	73
17 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	—	—	—	2	1	6
18 Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	130	—	—	—	2	32	96
19 Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	448	—	—	—	12	77	359
20 Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	—	—	—	1	6	15
21 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	99	2	2	—	1	17	77
22 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	54	8	7	—	3	12	24
23 Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	1	—	2	4	9	6
24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	—	—	—	1	7	3
25 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
26 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	—	—	1	1	2	3
27 Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	—	—	—	4	15	24
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	—	—	—	1	12	23
29 Puerperal and post-abortion. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31 Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
32 Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	15	3	—	—	—	—
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	—	—	—	3	7	3
34 Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	—	1	2	4	3	3
35 Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	—	2	1	7	11	12
36 All Other Causes...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152	2	4	2	10	28	106

The total births on the Island numbered 1,204 (1,130), of which 44 (35) were still births, so the still birth-rate was 36.5 per 1,000 total births compared with 31.0 and 43.3 in the two previous years. The live birth-rate on the Island, when calculated per 1,000 crude population, was 13.4, as against 14.6 in England and Wales, and the still birth-rate was 0.50 compared with 0.55 for England and Wales. The live births numbered 65 more than in the previous year; 600 boys were born and 560 girls, i.e. an excess of 40 boys, but 3 more infant boys died than girls. Forty-seven infants died in their first year of life (29), so the infant mortality was 39.8 per 1,000 live births (26.3), the rate for England and Wales being 55.0. Of the 47 deaths, 42 were of legitimate infants, i.e. at the rate of 38.1 per 1,000 legitimate births and 5 were of illegitimate infants, which among 60 illegitimate births gives a death rate of 83.3 per 1,000 illegitimate births. (In the previous year 68 illegitimate infants were born and three died). The proportion of illegitimate births to total births (live and still) was 5.3 per cent. (6.0).

Twenty-seven of the 47 infants' deaths were ascribed to causes which were in operation before birth, such as congenital debility, prematurity, etc.; 8 were due to pneumonia, 5 to diarrhœa, 2 to bronchitis and one each to influenza and cerebro spinal fever.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICTS DURING THE YEAR 1940, RELATING TO CIVILIANS ONLY AT ALL AGES.

Causes of Death.						Isle of Wight Rural.	Cowes.	New- port.	Ryde.	Sandown- Shanklin.	Vent- nor.	TOTALS.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	268	232	270	351	183	121	1425
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	9	6	3	14	5	7	44
7 Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	—	1	6
8 Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	4	—	—	6
9 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	9	11	10	2	46
10 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
11 Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12 Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
13 Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M) and uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	7	7	1	4	29
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	8	9	8	1	35
15 Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	1	7	1	2	20
16 Cancer of other sites	...	...	...	...	...	16	17	16	32	19	8	108
17 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	2	2	1	9
18 Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	25	27	24	32	9	13	130
19 Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	84	68	80	111	63	42	448
20 Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	5	4	2	1	22
21 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	18	20	22	20	9	10	99
22 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	12	7	6	16	8	5	54
23 Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	5	5	3	1	22
24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	1	2	1	1	11
25 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	—	1	5
26 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	—	3	1	—	7
27 Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	13	9	8	4	6	3	43
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	3	13	3	2	36
29 Puerperal and post-abort. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31 Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	5	5	—	—	12
32 Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	2	6	2	2	18
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	2	6	2	2	13
34 Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4	2	2	1	13
35 Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	7	9	1	1	33
36 All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	28	18	49	23	24	10	152

There were 1,425 deaths during the year (1,199) and these outnumbered the live births by 265, so the natural decrease of the population was 3.06 per 1000. The death-rate in England and Wales was 14.3 and the crude death-rate for the Island was 16.5 per 1000 population, but when allowance is made for the differences in the local population the comparative figure for the Island is 13.03. The deaths of persons over 64 years of age numbered 914 (789) and constituted 64.1 per cent. of the total deaths (65.8).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There was no change during the year in the Public Health Officers of the Council.

National Health Insurance.—The number of insured persons in the Isle of Wight County Insurance Committee's Register in 1940 averaged 34,934 against 35,350 and 34,128 in the previous years.

Hospital Services and Clinics.—The Hospital Services and Clinics remained the same as in the previous year apart from the increases on account of the War. The Ministry of Health's Emergency Medical Service has included beds in all the Island hospitals with added beds where practicable in existing hospitals and the establishment of two additional hospitals at the Home of Rest, Shanklin and at Osborne House, East Cowes; Ryde House, equipped for 50 patients is ready to function as an annexe to the County Hospital. At the outbreak of War, all the hospitals prepared for possible casualties by discharging those patients who could be sent home but very soon they were able to readmit civilian sick holding in reserve for emergency only a proportion of their beds and some of the smaller hospitals were later suspended from the Scheme; these latter being the Arthur Webster Hospital, Shanklin, Hawthorndene Sanatorium and Longford Sanatorium. There remains however a substantial number of hospital beds on the Island equipped and staffed ready to receive casualties.

The casualty services include 44 ambulances of which 27 are whole time ambulances in a constant state of readiness, six are British Red Cross or Town ambulances, and 11 are trade vehicles with fit-

ments which enable them to be converted for use as ambulances at short notice : these are distributed over the Island.

There are six fixed first aid posts, one in each centre of population and one Mobile Post. Casualties are treated at these posts by a medical officer and nursing staff and there are 44 first aid points at which minor conditions can be dealt with and as these are all on or near a telephone, ambulances can be summoned to remove the more serious casualties. The staffs of these various services are for the most part unpaid volunteers who have given up a great deal of time and energy to their training and who serve long hours of duty in the public interest and experience has shown that where their services have been needed these volunteers have done their work splendidly. Much of the necessary training and organisation has fallen on Dr. Wallace and Dr. Carpenter in their several districts. This they have willingly undertaken in addition to their ordinary duties although it has meant working at high pressure for many months.

BLIND PERSONS' ACT, 1920 and 1938.

There were in all 147 blind persons in the Island at the end of 1940, of whom two were under school age, one between five and 16 years of age, 32 between 16 and 50 and 112 over 50 years of age.

NURSING HOMES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

At the beginning of the year, 28 Homes were registered under the Nursing Homes' Registration Act, and during the year two applications for registration were received. In one case the registration certificate was voluntarily returned for cancellation, so at the end of the year there were 29 Nursing Homes registered, 8 for maternity cases only, 14 for maternity and other patients, and 7 for non-maternity cases.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH.

As in previous years, Dr. Hilda Linford has continued to address meetings at women's institutes, townswomen's guilds, and other bodies on health matters and these lectures are well attended and have been much appreciated. Fourteen lectures were given under these headings and in addition some 95 short talks and demonstrations were given at infant welfares, not only on health but also on A.R.P. matters, Food Education and the avoidance of waste.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

TABLE IV.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES FROM EACH AREA SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1940.

District.	New Milk.	Other Samples.	Total.	Remarks.
Apse Heath ...	2	—	2	
Ashey ...	1	—	1	
Binstead ...	1	—	1	
Carisbrooke ...	1	—	1	
Cowes ...	3	3	6	
East Cowes ...	4	—	4	
Elmfield ...	4	—	4	
Freshwater ...	9	2	11	
Godshill ...	1	—	1	
Gurnard ...	5 (1a)	—	5	No proceedings; milk sour when received.
Haylands ...	6	—	6	
Lake ...	—	1	1	
Newport ...	17 (1a)	15	32	Case dismissed.
Parkhurst ...	1	—	1	
Porchfield ...	1	—	1	
Ryde ...	5	12	17	
Sandown ...	6	3	9	
Shalfleet ...	2 (1a)	—	2	Fined £5 and 15/6 costs.
Shanklin ...	6 (1a)	3	9	No proceedings.
Totland ...	2	—	2	
Ventnor ...	7	3	10	
Whitwell ...	4 (2a)	—	4	Fined £5 and 15/6 costs in each case.
Wroxall ...	5	—	5	
Yarmouth ...	3 (2a)	—	3	No proceedings; milk sour when received.
	*96 (8a)	42	138	

(a) Adulterated or below the minimum standard fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

* Six of these samples of milk were broken in transit and 14 of the genuine contained dirty debris.

The number of samples examined by the Public Analyst was 138, of which 96 were milk. Ninety-two of these were first samples and seven of them were certified to be below the minimum standard fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, i.e. 7.6 per cent. of the first samples (4.2 per cent. in 1939 and 4.1 in 1938). Of four subsequent samples taken in these unsatisfactory cases, three were genuine and one was not genuine. Of the eight samples below standard, proceedings were taken in four cases, one of them was dismissed and fines of £5 and 15/- costs were imposed in each of the other three cases. In four cases no proceedings were taken; three of these samples were sour when received by the Analyst.

Fourteen of the milk samples contained dirty debris, two in marked amount.

Of the 42 non-milk samples, 24 were of sausages (18 beef sausages and 6 pork) and there were 12 of lard and six of butter. All these were certified to be genuine and none of them contained preservative in deleterious amount. Two of the samples of beef sausages contained sulphur dioxide without the presence of the preservative being disclosed on the labels as is required. One of these samples contained 450 parts per million of the preservative which is the maximum permissible. The vendor was cautioned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE V.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE 52 WEEKS ENDED 28TH DECEMBER, 1940.

	Isle of Wight Rural District.	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown- Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Totals.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Scarlet Fever	8	1	12	7	9	21	58 (93)
Diphtheria	1	—	3	7	1	1	13 (14)
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (3)
Pneumonia	11	11	9	3	1	3	38 (21)
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	5	2	2	1	12 (22)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	2	5	8	2	—	20 (1)
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	1 (6)
Erysipelas	2	—	4	1	2	—	9 (20)
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (4)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	2	2	1	—	5 (3)
‡Measles	18	1	17	4	78	3	121 (5)
‡Whooping Cough	1	—	5	1	—	—	7 (1)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	11	19	10	7	9	69 (83)
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	4	7	2	—	2	19 (23)
Totals	63	30	89	47	103	40	372—(299)

‡Notifiable as from 23rd October, 1939.

The notifications of infectious disease to the various medical officers of health numbered 372 as against 299, 287, 320, 214 and 371 in the five previous years. It will be remembered that measles and whooping cough were made notifiable as from the 23rd October, 1939. Notifications of these two diseases numbered 128 during the year under review, and this should be taken into consideration when comparisons are made with the figures of previous years.

Compared with the previous year there was an increase in pneumonia, cerebro spinal fever and measles but fewer notifications of the other infectious diseases. Notifications of cerebro spinal fever numbered 20, which is decidedly more than our average. Influenza which is not itself notifiable, was prevalent during the early part of the year and this probably accounts for the increase in the notifications of pneumonia which numbered 38 as against 21 in the previous year. One death was caused by measles but none from enteric, scarlet fever, diphtheria or whooping cough.

There were five cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified of which two were treated in hospital and three at home. All made complete recoveries.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE VI.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory System.		Other Forms.		Respiratory System.		Other Forms	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
5-	—	—	5	4	—	—	—	1
10-	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15-	4	4	2	3	2	2	1	2
20-	6	4	2	—	4	2	—	—
25-	11	13	—	—	3	7	—	—
35-	12	4	1	—	6	1	—	—
45-	5	3	1	—	5	—	1	—
55-	7	2	—	—	5	4	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
	46	30	16	8	28	16	3	3

The new cases shown in Table VI include all the primary notifications and also any new cases coming otherwise to the notice of the medical officer during the year. These last numbered 31, 19 being transfers from other areas (33), the death returns giving the first information in 10 and 2 cases were re-instated on the register because they returned to the Island. The primary notifications numbered 69 making up the total of 100 "new" cases, as against 114 and 106 in the two preceding years. Seventy-six of them suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis (88) and 24 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (26). In addition one "cured" case (pulmonary male) was re-entered on the register.

The deaths from tuberculosis numbered 50 (42). Forty-four of these deaths were caused by pulmonary tuberculosis, 28 males and 16 females, and 6 by non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Table VII summarises the changes in the tuberculosis register during the calendar year.

Number of Patients				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1939	...	...	...	178	150	61	67	239	217
Added during 1940 (new cases)	...	...	...	34	17	14	4	48	21
Cases removed from other areas	...	...	...	9	9	—	1	9	10
Old cases re-admitted	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	2	1
Gross Total	...	...	...	223	177	75	72	298	249
Removed to other areas during 1940	...	...	...	9	9	5	8	14	17
Removed—Diagnosis unconfirmed	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Removed from the Register as being 'Cured'	...	...	...	—	—	2	1	2	1
Died during 1940	...	...	...	†24	13	3	—	27	13
Died from other diseases...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	1	1
Totals to be removed from Register	...	...	...	35	23	10	9	45	32
Number on Register at the end of 1940	...	...	...	188	154	65	63	253	217

†Two notified non-pulmonary cases (males) died from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The number of observation and nursing visits paid to tuberculous patients by the district nurses was 1122 against 1349 and 1723 in the two previous years.

At the end of the year there were 346 patients on the dispensary books, 278 of whom were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 68 from other forms of the disease, 68 were children under 15 years of age and 288 were adults. In addition 26 persons were under observation at the end of the year for the purpose of diagnosis, making a total of 372 on the dispensary books.

The number of attendances at or in connection with the dispensaries was 437, and the number of new persons examined 192. Ten of these last were contacts as against 10 in the previous year. Seven of the contacts were children and 3 were adults. Thirteen were patients transferred from other areas, including one who had been seen previously and who had left the Island, and one old case "cured" was re-admitted, and 168 were referred by their private doctors for diagnosis or treatment, of whom 109 were adults and 59 were children. Thirty-eight of the adults were tuberculous (23 men and 15 women) and 12 of the children (seven boys and five girls): 36 suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis and 14 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, of whom two were adults (men) and 12 were children (seven boys and five girls).

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1941, a daily ration of milk was given to 21 patients, for periods varying from 10 days to 52 weeks. At the beginning of the year, 9 patients were receiving grants, 12 were added during the year, and at the end of the year six were in receipt of milk.

TABLE VIII.—SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AT VARIOUS SANATORIA AND HOSPITALS DURING 1940.

Sanatorium or Hospital	Resident at beginning of year	Admissions during year	Discharges during year (inc. Deaths)	Remaining end of year
Longford Sanatorium	37	96	101	32
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton	2	5	3	4
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor	1	*7	7	1
Wingfield-Morris Orthopædic Hospital, Oxford	1	—	1	—
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	—	1	1	—
Winsley Sanatorium, Bath	—	1	1	—
Totals	41	110	114	37

*Five of these were admitted for a few days only.

Details of the patients treated at Longford Sanatorium are as follows :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In residence on 31st December, 1939	13	10	14	37
Admitted during the year	33	21	42	96
Discharged during the year	27	21	46	94
Died during the year	5	2	—	7
In residence on 31st December, 1940	14	8	10	32

Of the 94 patients discharged during the year, 40 had been admitted for diagnosis (5 adults and 35 children). All of these were discharged as non-tuberculous. The average duration of stay of the 94 patients discharged was 102.9 days (106.9 in 1939, 106.9 in 1938, 116.2 in 1937, 175.3 in 1936, 148.2 in 1935, 81.0 in 1934, 104.4 in 1933 and 94.6 in 1932), but this includes those already mentioned as not tuberculous.

The other 54 patients who were discharged were definitely suffering from tuberculosis on admission and remained in the Institution for 121.9 days on the average (135.9 days). Twenty-four of them were men, 19 women, and 11 were children. In eight cases the disease was classified as quiescent on discharge; the other 46 patients still had active disease although many of them had improved.

The number of patients in the Sanatorium sent by the London County Council at the beginning of the year was 7; 14 were admitted during the year, 13 were discharged and one died, leaving seven in the Sanatorium on the 31st December, 1940. These patients are included in the figures given above.

Six children from Portsmouth were admitted to Longford Sanatorium during 1940. Five were discharged and one remained in the Sanatorium at the end of the year. One evacuated child, for whom the Government accepted responsibility, was transferred from the Home of Rest Hospital, Shanklin and was still in Longford at the end of the year.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The number of new applicants attending the centre last year was 44 (65), of whom 24 (16) were found to be suffering from venereal disease, 10 from syphilis (five males and five females) and 14 from gonorrhœa (10 males and four females).

At the beginning of the year 15 patients were under treatment, 14 for syphilis and one for gonorrhœa. Forty-seven persons attended during the year for diagnosis or treatment, of whom three were transferred from other centres and 44 were new attendances. At the end of the year 20 patients were under treatment, of whom 15 had syphilis and five gonorrhœa. The number of out-patient attendances to see the medical officer was 364, as against 372 in 1939, and the total number of attendances was 392. Only one patient suffering from venereal disease was admitted to hospital for treatment, a male who was in St. Mary's Hospital for a period of 39 days.

CANCER.

Extent of Radium Treatment at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

Radium treatment was provided by the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital to 16 in-patients representing 14 admissions or re-admissions to the wards and two who were dealt with under the Hospital's boarding out arrangements. The gross cost to the Council was £242 12s. and the nett cost £208 6s. 6d. because contributions amounting to £34 5s. 6d. were required from four of the patients. The remaining 12 patients were not in a position to make any contribution.

One patient was admitted to the Hammersmith Hospital and towards the cost of his treatment the Council made a contribution of £29 15s. 6d. : the East Cowes Hospital gave a grant of £5 5s. in addition. The patient himself contributed £5 0s. 0d.

Thirteen patients received out-patient treatment, the attendances numbering 139. The cost in respect of this out-patient treatment amounted to £34 15s. 0d. Contributions amounting to £2 7s. 6d. were required from five of the patients so the nett cost was £32 7s. 6d.

The nett cost to the rates of this service has therefore been £265 9s. 6d. (£149 8s. 6d. in the previous year).

The Radium Officer from the Southampton centre holds a clinic at Ryde each month at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

There were nine hundred and thirty-four specimens examined during the year as follows :— Sputum for tubercle bacilli, 455 (170 positive, 285 negative) other specimens for tubercle bacilli 4 (4 negative), swabs for diphtheria bacilli 206 (32 positive, 174 negative), bloods for widal reaction, 7 (no positive, 7 negative), smears for Gonococci, 111 (32 positive, 79 negative), and other examinations, 151.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.—No changes have been made in these services as described in last year's report.

Fifty-six midwives were in regular practice on the Island throughout the year, of whom six were employed at Parkhurst Institution, 34 were employed by district nursing associations and 16 were in independent practice : nine of these last were engaged entirely in nursing homes and not in domiciliary midwifery. In addition, 13 other midwives practised here for part of the year only. The total number notifying their intention to practise was 69. In supervising the work of these midwives, Dr. Linford made 122 routine and 5 special visits of enquiry. A midwife who surrendered her certificate in the previous year was re-instated for the duration of the Emergency and is employed in St. Mary's Hospital.

The midwives notified six still-births, four deaths of child, 15 artificial feeding, 18 performing last offices, and 10 liability to be a source of infection, and they also sent notices of having summoned medical help in 266 instances. An analysis of the 266 cases shows that 32 were for the child, and 233 were for the mother, and one was for both. Of these last, 91 were for complications arising during pregnancy (26 for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage, and 65 for other causes during pregnancy) ; 123 were for causes arising during labour (48 of these being for obstructed or delayed labour, five for abnormal presentations, three for hæmorrhage, 58 for ruptured perineum and nine for other causes during labour ; and 20 were for causes arising after labour.

Financial assistance was granted towards the payment of home helps in 13 cases (25 cases in 1939).

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care.—There were 695 expectant mothers seen by the district nurse midwives, i.e. an average of 7.2 times each and the independent midwives paid 1233 visits to 310 expectant mothers which was an average of 3.9 visits per case.

The number of expectant mothers who attended Dr. Linford's ante-natal clinics numbered 276 and a further 131 (128) mothers were seen by her apart from the clinics.

Maternity Cases at St. Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst.—During the year 80 patients were admitted under your Committee's scheme, 24 of them on account of complications during pregnancy or labour and the remaining 56 being normal cases. A further 19 confinement cases were admitted through the Public Assistance Committee making a total of 99 admissions of whom three were official evacuees from Portsmouth. There were 82 births in the hospital, of which 15 were still-births and 67 live births. Two infants (twins) died within ten days of birth. The average duration of stay in hospital of the confinement cases was 17.28 days.

Four mothers were sent by your Committee to the Harriet Guy and Cowes War Memorial Convalescent Home at Gurnard, their treatment aggregating one day less than 10 weeks.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Twelve notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received during the year compared with 22 and 15 respectively in the two previous years. There were five cases in the Newport district, two each in Ryde, Sandown-Shanklin and the Rural district and one in Ventnor. Two cases occurred in nursing homes and one in the County Hospital, Ryde. Five of the cases which occurred at home were transferred to the Fairlee Infectious Diseases Hospital. These patients remained there for periods varying between 4 and 33 days and averaging 15.6 days.

One of the cases which occurred at a Nursing Home died there six weeks after the confinement but this was classified by the Registrar General as from heart failure and not as a maternal death. This is the first year on record with no maternal death.

Dental Treatment.—During the year 77 expectant or nursing mothers received dental treatment. Some of these required extractions only, the number of fresh applications for dentures during the year being 44. In addition one mother had dentures repaired, four had dentures remade and one had extractions only. Of these 50, your Committee required contributions towards the cost of the dentures in 34 and in the remaining 16 the financial circumstances were such that no contribution was required. Twenty-nine individual dentures were supplied and 286 attendances were made by the mothers.

Infant Welfare Centres.—This work was continued except for a short interval on the outbreak of war. The usual table showing the number of attendances, etc., is omitted this year.

Under the Council's arrangements, Dr. H. H. Langston of the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton attends each month to hold orthopædic clinics at the County Hospital and at the County Hall, Newport. During the financial year ended 31st March, 91 attendances were made by children under school age.

There was one child (a girl) in hospital at the beginning of the year suffering from infantile paralysis. This child was discharged early in April after a period of $27\frac{1}{2}$ weeks' treatment. Five children were admitted during the year (4 boys and 1 girl); one of these from the Borough of Ryde. One boy who was admitted suffering from deformity of the right hip (which was ultimately diagnosed as tuberculosis of the abdomen and hip) died in hospital after 37 weeks' treatment. Another boy, admitted for treatment of cleft palate and lip was discharged after 3 weeks and one day's treatment. A further boy, admitted from Ryde Borough on account of spina bifida and club foot attained the age of 5 years three and a half weeks after he was admitted and the Health Education Committee accepted responsibility as from that date. There were two children in Alton Hospital at the end of the year, one girl, with congenital dislocation of the hip and a boy with hydrocephalus.

Visual Defects.—Eleven children under school age attended the eye clinics of whom eight were fresh patients and three attended for re-examination. Five were supplied with spectacles for the first time; two already had spectacles which were suitable and in four cases spectacles were not required.

Infant Life Protection.—The changes in the Children Act Register during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1940, are as follows:—

On Register 1st January, 1940	...	...	...	22
Added during the year 1940	...	...	...	9
				—
				31
Removed during 1940	...	...	...	19
To care of relations	...	6		
Legally adopted	...	3		
To Ryde Borough	...	1		
Left Island	...	6		
Over 9 years of age	...	3		
				—
On Register 31st December, 1940	...	...	...	12
				—

These numbers are for the whole Island except the Borough of Ryde. During the year 89 visits of inspection were made to these children, 22 by the medical officers, 67 by the health visitors.